

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, line 12, please replace "Figure 5" with --Figure 1--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-11, 20-25, and 30 without prejudice. Please add the following new claims 31-37.

31. (New) A memory device, comprising:
a memory array;
a register configured to store at least one bit indicating a suspend status of
a write operation; and
a control circuit coupled to said memory array and said register, said
control circuit is configured to update said register and to control the output of a
status signal representing said protection status of said data modification
operation, and wherein said control circuit includes:
a first state machine configured to update at least one of said bits
indicating said suspend status of said write operation in response to a
suspend signal, and
a second state machine coupled to said first state machine and
configured to control the output of said status signal in response to a
status request signal.

32. (New) The memory device of claim 31, wherein said write operation
represents a byte write operation.